MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM



for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1						
	COMMON:					
-	Allegany County	/ Library				
1	AND/OR HISTORIC:					
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	□ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Co	insidered	Preservation work	Unrestricted
					in progress	□ No
F	PRESENT USE (Check One or Mo	are as Appropriate)			ļ	<u> </u>
] Park		•	
	☐ Commercial ☐ Ind] Private Residenc		Transportation Other (Specify)	Comments
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	☐ Entertainment ☐ Mus	•	Scientific		<u> </u>	
L	Commissioners o	T wiredon's	County			
	STREET AND NUMBER: Allegany County	Courthous				
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7. E	ESCRIPTION						
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		⊠ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	Deteriarated	Ruins	Unexpased
j	CONDITION		(Check O	ne)		(Che	ck One)
		⊠ Alte	red	Unaltered		☐ Moved	Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Allegany County Library building stands in the north section of Prospect Square on the northerly side of Washington Street about two blocks west of Wills Creek in Cumberland, Maryland.

The building is a mid-nineteenth century structure in the Greek Revival design, temple form with a mid-seventeenth century wing attached to the west side. The main building is a two and a half story, brick structure with a cut stone foundation, a gable roof, and a portico on the south gable side which is the facade. The exterior walls are broken into sections or bays, each with a window or door openings. There are three bays across the front with a center door and five bays along the side. A brick cornice runs around the east, north, and west sides closing the gable end on the north. The bricks of the facade are laid in Stretcher Bond and those of the other walls in Common Bond (five rows of stretchers and one row of headers). Most of the west wall is covered by the wing. building has four tie rods with five-point-star end pieces.

The portico is of the Greek Doric order and has a brick floor with cut stone steps stretching the length of the portico. There are six wooden, fluted columns which divide the area into Only the center section corresponds to the five sections. bays of the facade of the building. The second and fifth The entablature has columns covered the outer front windows. a wide architrave, a series of triglyphs and mutules with guttae. -The pediment above the entablature is plain. The back of the portico rests on square, brick pilasters with capitals.

The major windows are double-hung wooden sashes with sixover-six lights. The lights measure approximately 11 3/4" x 18 3/4" and the mullions are about 3/4" broad. There is a double casement window with wooden sashes, each with six lights, in the gable on the north end. There are heavy wood entablatures above the major windows and the sills are wooden.

The front entrance has double wooden doors with several lights and a transom with three large lights. The doorway is outlined with a broad, flat trim with crossetts at the top. The trim tapers outward toward the bottom in a manner characteristic of the Egyptian style.

The internal arrangement of rooms varies on each floor. the first floor there is a short center hall flanked by a stairhall on the west and a small room on the east. The large room has four opens onto a large room on the north. windows on the east side and three along the north wall. mail staircase is located in the southwest corner and winds up to the second floor with a curve at the bottom and a landing SEE CONTINUATION SHEET near the top.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More es	Appropriate)		
.ə:umbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	70th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	2 19th Century	•
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applice)	le and Known) 18	349 - 1850	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropri	iete)	
Abar iginal	🔀 Education	Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistaric	Engineering	Religian/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	industry industry	losophy	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
	Londscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Humon-	-
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
☐ Communications	— ☐ Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	☐ Transpartation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Allegany County Library building on Prospect Square is significant for its role in the progress of education and for its architecture. The structure was erected about 1849-1850 by Allegany County as a school. Lowdermilk records that it was opened June 8, 1850 (History of Cumberland, Maryland, P.367). The first public school in Western Maryland was built on Fayette Street, however by 1848, this building was no longer adequate for educational needs. In 1848 the County Commissioners appropriated a lot on Washington Street adjoining the jail for the site of a new school. The second academy building was used as a school until 1929.

In 1934, the Cumberland Free Library obtained a lease in perpetuity from the county for the building to use it as a library. The library opened in the new location in June,1934. The name of the library was changed to Allegany County Library in 1960 when the library system was reorganized.

About 1965 the old jail building to the west was razed to clear the way for construction of an addition to the library. The jail building was a circa 1797 masonry structure which also served as the first courthouse of Allegany County. For a few years prior to its demolition, this building was used by the library as an annex.

Architecturally, the library building is an example of the Greek Revival style that was popular in the United States from about 1820 to about 1860. In the buildings of Western Maryland and Western Pennsylvania, the Greek influence is generally found in the decorative detailing while the building is of an earlier period, usually Georgian. The library building, however, is a Greek temple form structure. The architectural historian Talbot Hamlin found that in the middle-Atlantic states, the Greek temple form was used most frequently for public buildings such as courthouses and schools. The Allegary County Library is a formidable structure on Prospect Square and offers a sharp contrast with the late nineteenth century, Romanesque style courthouse across the street.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	•			
Lowdermilk, Will H. <u>Hist</u> Washington, D. C.: Jame	tory es An	of Cumberland, M glim, 1878.	Maryland.	
<u>Tour of Historic Homes ar</u> Allegany County Historic	nd Pl Cal S	aces, Cumberlandociety, 1955.	d, Maryland.	
Hamlin, Talbot. <u>Greek Ro</u> Dover reprint of 1944 e	<u>eviva</u> ditio	l Architecture :	in America.	
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Ronald L. Andrews, Consu	II taii	<u> </u>	DATE	
Tri-County Council for W	V. Md	., Inc.	4/23/74	
Suite 510, Algonquin Mot	tor I	nn	<u> </u>	
Cumberland		Maryland		
State Liaison Officer Review	ew:	(Office Use Only	,)	
Significance of this pro				

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ALLEGANY COUNTY LIBRARY

#6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- 1. This building is included in the Washington Street Historic District as designated by the National Register of Historic Places. The building itself, however, warrants a separate form for its historical and architectural significance.
- 2. Maryland Historical Trust Survey (1970)
 Maryland Historical Trust
 2525 Riva Road
 Annapolis, Maryland

no. Al-33 site of first jail and courthouse now the west wing of the library
no. Al-54 Allegany Academy building

(1 of 3 continuation sheets)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

Allegany County Library

#7 DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The balustrade has a round handrail and round balusters. There is narrow verticle board wainscoting along the stairway. The area under the steps is enclosed with a large flat paneling. The stairs to the basement are at the north end of the large room.

Most of the second floor rooms are used as administrative These rooms are arranged around a center hall. original arrangement of rooms on this floor probably was similar to that of the first floor. A large room in the south east corner is two bays deep and two bays wide and has a fireplace. This room, known as the "Maryland Room," is original to the building. Evidence indicates that this room was originally about the same size as the one below it. The walls and baseboard show signs of early partitions corresponding to those on the first floor. The fireplace is fake and the mantelpiece probably did not originate in this building. The mantel piece with its reeded columns and decoration are more characteristic of the Neo-classical period than of the Greek. It also is more sophisticated than the other trim found throughout the building.

The interior trim around the windows and doorways consists of broad, chamfined verticle and horizontal pieces with plain corner blocks (See sketch). The baseboard is low as are the plinth blocks at the doorways. The few original doors that remain have four flat panels, two large and two small, with trim on the panels on one side only. Most of the doors are recent installations.

The wing attached to the west side is one and a half stories high and of brick and stone construction. The major portion has a hip roof and the entranceway is flanked by plain columns with volute capitals. The corners of the building have stone pilusters and the windows are outlined with stone. The interior is mostly a large room used as stack and reading areas.

PAST:

In Lowdermilk's <u>History of Cumberland</u>, <u>Maryland (1878)</u>, the interior of the building is described as having a large room

(2 of 3 continuation sheets)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORM

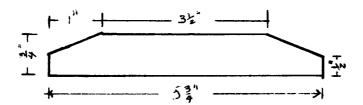
CONTINUATION SHEET

Allegany County Library

#7 DESCRIPTION (Continued)

42 feet square and recitation rooms on the second floor with the lower floor having a wide hall and two large school rooms. (P.367). A sketch appearing in the same work shows an internal chimney on the east wall between the second and third bays from the front. (P.367).

profile of interior trim taken from second floor southeast
 room -- measurements are approximate



(3 of 3 continuation sheets)

Cumberland

Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

UNITE.

ATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE N R.

N. R. FIELD

STATE:	
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Allegany -

BOX 1704

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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2.	LOCATION								
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	Cumberland								
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3.	CLASSIFICATION								
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		e P FI	ELD SHEET	ALTE-6-001
7. DESCRIPTION		14. 17.		
CONDITION	Excellent Good X	(Chec	ck One)	Unexposed
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DESCRIBE THE PI	RESENT AND ORIGINAL (II	Moun) Buyeres ABBE	54446	

The Allegany County Library is a Greek Temple form building with a hexastyle portico of the Doric order on the front. Although lacking a peripteral colonade (few American Greek Revival buildings are peripteral), the brick side and end walls carry on the entablature and the 6/6 windows (with Greek Revival caps) are set within recesses, the flanking pilasters echoing the columns. Between the second and third storey on these pilasters are four star-shaped tie rod ends. The portico is correct Doric, having full entablature (with metopes, gutae, mutules, etc.) and frieze, fluted columns without bases, and a three step stone stylobate.

A more recent one storey wing is attached to the west side. This has simplified Greek details and is, on the whole, a rather sympathetic addition which does not detract from the older building.

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GNIFICANCE				7 7			
PERIOD (Check One or l	lore as	Appropriate)					
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15th Century		17th Centu	ry 🗌	19th Centu	гу 🌋		
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Allegany County Library is a very fine example of a Greek Revival public building. The inspiration for the Doric portico is the Theseum in Athens [the Theseum was a peripteral building of approximately 46 x 105 feet and had a total of 36 columns, however, the front dimension of the Library must be close to its source and was perhaps taken directly from a book. Asher Benjamin in the 1827 edition of The American Builder's Companion illustrates the Doric order, although his specific example is the Parthenon.] and is identical [all correct uses of the orders are, for all intents and purposes, identical] to the portico which Thomas U. Walter applied to Nicholas Biddle's house, Andalusia, in 1836. The rest of the building is handled well in relation to the front portico.

The Allegany Library is the key building in the predominantly Greek Revival north side of Prospect Square, and is also a part of a Greek group starting west of the Courthouse. Besides being an excellent example of its style, this most 'civic' building is most suitable to the government square around it.

[Probably built at the same time as the second courthouse, which was 1839-41.]

[Weakly copied by the Christian Science Church across the street.]

Keeper of The National Register

Date ___

					N	. R. FIELD SHEET		AL-II-	A-00,
9.	MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL	LRE	FEREN_25				-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	Talbot Hai Net	mli w Y	n Greek I ork: (Oxi	Reviv	a. 1º	l Architecture in 944, Dover 1964).	<u>.</u>	America	
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1	1. FORM PREPARED BY			-	_				
27.7	NAME AND TITLE:								
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	ORGANIZATION Department	t o	f Art His	storv				June 8, 1	.970
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	Newark					Delaware			
12	2. STATE LIAISON OFFICE	RCE	RTIFICATION			NATIONAL REGIST	ER	VERIFICATION	
	As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: National State Local					I hereby certify that this p National Register. Chief, Office of Archeolog			
	Name				-	DateATTEST:			

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTO? APHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

Maryla . Form 10-445 (5/62)COUNTY

Allegany TOWN Cumberland VICINITY

STREET NO.

ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES

C AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

AL-35# 3 INVENTORY

First Court House & Jail 2. NAME

DATE OR PERIOD STYLE ARCHITECT

BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

(5B.) First Court House and Jail

The first Court House in Allegany County was built in 1799, and also housed the County's first jail. First court was held on April 25, 1791, at the home of John Graham on North Mechanic Street with the Honorable Andrew Bruce presiding. The second meeting of this body was in Faws' Tavern on Greene Street. The court's proceedings were handled in this manner until the first County Court House was constructed in 1799 at its present location next to the library on Prospect Square. The old building, which has recently housed the County Library Annex, is to be razed to make way for an addition to the library. It is a three-story brick affair quite significantly related to the era in which it was built, and its memory should be preserved by a suitable marker.

destroyer 1966

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered

Interior

Exterior

Historic Landmarks in Allegany County; a staff report by the Allegany County Planning & Zoning Commission, Cumberland, Maryland, Jan. 1965

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD

DATE OF RECORD

ALLEGANY COUNTY

FIRST COURTHOUSE & JAIL

ALTI-4-001

Data from paper written by Michael C.Sprigg (1791-1845) and used in Daily Times 'ew York, Aug. 15, 1887.

" Around 1817-- "

Quote: "Each morning at precisely 8:30 A.M. as the sun's rays played hide and seek through the doorless and windowless shell of the unfinished Episcopal Church an old man came from the brow of the hill, tapped his drum with the rat-tat-tat and with a loud voice proclaimed "ayez, ayez, gentlemen of the jury, attend court-gentlemen of the jury attend court! The County Court was in session and for years the honorable bench and jurors were notified in this manner.

In 1827, the County Commissioners bought a bell which was placed in a steeple made in the shape of a lantern and built into the cone of the roof of the Courthouse. A rope was fastened to the bell, and then extended into the room below. Now, that Sheriff Beall had this convenience, it was no longer necessary to use the service of the old drummer.

THIS JEIL WAS TORN DOWN TO MAKE WAY FOR A "MODERN" JAIL.

......further, on the right side (of Washington Street) stood a one stry brick, with two rooms paved with brick--one the County Clerk (Aza Beall)'s office and the other the Register of Wills (Charles Heck) office, on the site of the present Academy....There in an open space stood the Court house and Jail under one roof.............and today, with few alterations as it did 70 years ago (1817)" (unquote).

as typed Oct. 1970 by Hazel Groves Hansrote.

"This building stood in an open space opposite the present courthouse. The lower part—the jail, was stone. The upper part—the Courthouse was brick. The Jail consisted of four rooms, one for the criminals, one for debtors and two for the jailer. The criminal's and debtor's rooms were guarded by iron-barred windows. The doors were of heavy oak and studded with large nails. The locks andkeys were so large, they would be a curiosity today. Two rooms were added for the ever increasing family of the jailer, who received \$150 a year salary. Following the escape of several prisoners, a 16 foot high fence was built aroundthe yard. The courthouse was plain and primitive usually wide boards for desks and seats no paint..."

as typed by Hazel Groves Hansrote, Oct. 1970.

Form 10-445 (5/62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Allegany TOWN Cumberland

VICINITY

Library DATE OR PERIOD

STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

IC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

AL-33

INVENTORY

Allegany County Public

(LB.) Allegany County Public Library

Both the site on which the County Library is located and the building itself have an interesting historical background. In 1798, the first public school in the County was erected on Lot #145 on the northwest corner of Washington and Fayette Streets. In 1824, the school was named Allegany County Academy and was widely known for its excellent curriculum and the fact that it drew students from all parts of the County. In the year 1850, the present brick building was constructed on the site, with its Greek architecture and massive columns. In 1929 the school was discontinued, after 131 years of service to County residents. The building's use changed to the County Library in 1934. A project has now been started to build an addition to the building and to complete its restoration in keeping with the original design. The history of this edifice and its predecessor is told by a marker on the front of the building, erected by Cumberland Sesquicentennial, Inc.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior

Exterior

Source: Historic Landmarks in Allegany County; a staff report by the Allegany County Planning & Zoning Commission, Cumberland, Maryland, Jan. 1965

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Poges) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9- NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Allegany VICINITY West-side TOWN Cumberland STREET NO. Washington St. at Prospect Sq.

original owner Thos. Beall of Samuel ORIGINAL USE School PRESENT OWNER Allegany County PRESENT USELibrary WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick NO. OF STORIES 2 (new addition)

HIS LURIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY 53 INVENTORY

2. NAME A C A D E M Y PÉRIOD 1850 **CHANNE** XXXXXXXXXXXX DATE OR PERIOD copied ARCHITECT from the Temple of BUILDER Theseus of Athens

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

YES

On Jan. 15, 1798, the Maryland Legislature passed an act entitled "An Act to Incorporate a School in Allegany County". This first public school in Western Maryland was built on lot 145 at the Northwest corner of Fayette Street. Cumberland grew and by 1848 the original building was found inadequate. The heirs of Thomas Beal of Samuel, founder of Cumberland, Md., donated land on Washington Street at Prospect Square "to the County for Educational purposes", on lots 31 to 35 Washington Street, the Academy Trustees constructed the new Academy which was completed on June 8, 1850. The Academy closed in June 1929 ending it's scholastic career.

On June 5, 1934, the Cumberland Free Public Library moved into the Academy building. It became the County Library and was restored with addition added in 1966.

PHYSICAL C	CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered		Interior Excellent		Exterior	Restored	
	Prospect Courthouse	Square XACADEMY	 	-First Cou	rthouse	and	Jail
			<u> </u>				

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

Md. history

Allegany County History-J.". homas

School records

Personal knowledge (Library)

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

Hazel Groves Hansrote(Mrs. has.J.Sr.) 519 Hill Top Drive, Cumberland, Md. (1st. Ass't. Librarian--1924) Mem. Md. Hist. Trust. DATE OF RECORD Oct.17, 1969.

Form 10-445 (5/62) 1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Allegany
TOWN Cumberland

NO. OF STORIES 2

TOWN Cumberland VICINITY West-side
Washington Street at Prospect Square

ORIGINAL OWNER (land) -Thos. Beall of Sam.
ORIGINAL USE (bldg.) -- County
PRESENT OWNER Education -- of
PRESENT USE Allegany County -- Library
WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY AL - 3

2. NAME ALLEGANY COUNTY LIBRARY

DATE OR PERIOD 1850
STYLE (Colonial) Grecian Columns
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

(addition--new)

OPEN TO PUBLIC

YES

On June 5, 1934, the Cumberland Free Public Library(now called County Library) moved into the Academy building. Since then it has been officially known as the County Library.

The Maryland Legislature on Jan. 15, 1798 passed an act entitled—"An Act to Incorporate a School in Allgany County". This first public school in Western Maryland was built on Lot 145 at the Northwest corner of Fayette Street, Cumberland grew and by 1848 the original building was found inadequate. The heirs of Thomas Beall of Samuel, founder of Cumberland, donated land on Washington Street and Prospect Square "to the County for Educational Purposes"—on lots 31-35 Washington Street. The Academy Trustees constructed the new Academy which was completed on June 8, 1850. Except for a short period during the Civil War this (second) Academy building was used as a school until June 1929 when this famous old institution ended it's scholastic career.

An addition was added to the County Library in 1966. The <u>first</u> County Courthouse and Jail built in 1797 (in good sound condition) was destroyed to add this addition.

(over) ---

PROSPECT

X

present
Courthouse
Courthouse
Prospect

Square

Interior Excellant

Exterior Restored

First Courthouse & Jail destroyed to build annex)

Parade Ground for Fort Cumberland

N 7

6. LOCATION MAP (Rian Optional)

3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Poges)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

Md. History
Allegany County History (J.W. Thomas)
School records; Library records
Personal knowledge (Library)

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Hazel Groves Hansrote(Mrs.Chas.J.Sr.)
519 Hill Top Drive, Cumberland, Md.
(1st. Ass't. Librarian--1924)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

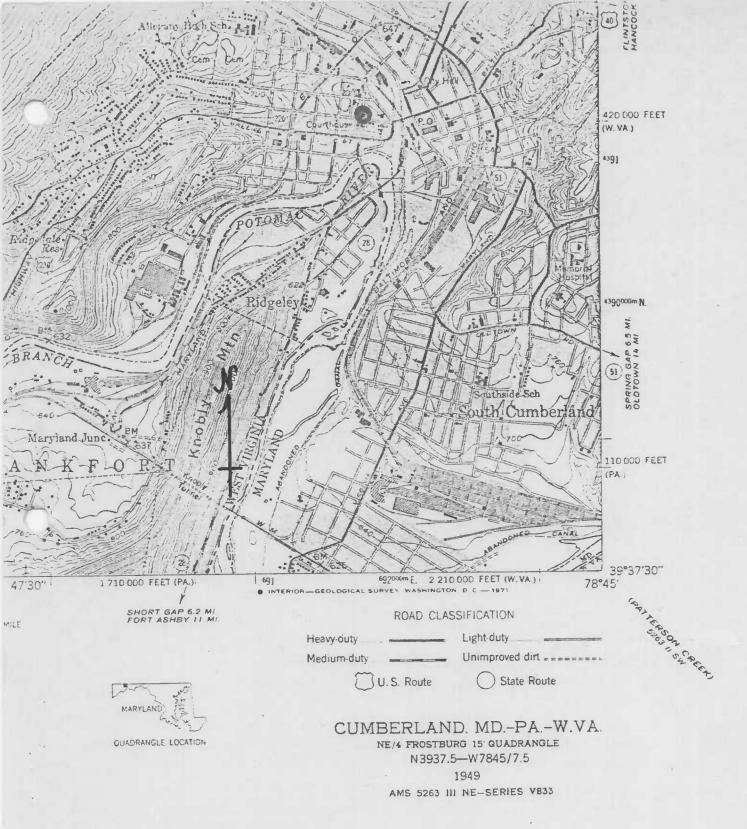
Mem Ma 1357 TRVST

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTO ** APHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

Note: The first Cumberland Free Public Library was established at 72 Greene St., Cumberland, Md., by Miss Mary G. Walsh as the first librarian with Miss Hazel L. Groves as her assistant in March 1924. Moved to the Academy building in 1934. The building at 72 Greene Street is now used as Girl Scout Headquarters.

Hazel Groves Hansrote.

. CARROLL COMPANIES NOT BE ASS.



Allegany County Library 33-37 Washington Street, Prospect Square Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland



Alleging County hibrary
31-37 Washington Street
Grospect Signane
Cumberland, Albegang Eo Hd
5 = men
5-2b., 1974



Altegang County hibrary
31-37 Washington Strut
Praspect Square
Cumberland, alleging Co, Hargland
N W men

Feb, 1972



AL包-IVA-001 Public Library Wington St. Cumberland OR 7/68 SLIDE # 3951



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First Courthouse + Jail (AL-33) Destroyed 1966 Please clip on our paper. Thanks! H. S. H AL-1V-001 MHT Rept : Jesse + Larothy Kave



Allegany Co Public library AL-1V-001